

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01335 231317Z

47

ACTION NEA-06

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NSCE-00 IO-03 L-01 IGA-01 SP-02 CG-00 AS-01 /042 W
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P R 231220Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3904
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1335

LIMDIS

DOD FOR ISA, DSAA; CINCEUR FOR J4/J7

DEPT PASS POLAD USCG FOR COMMANDANT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, US, JO
SUBJECT: ROYAL JORDANIAN COAST GUARD

1. FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO AQABA, KING
MENTIONED TO ME HIS INTENTION OF UPGRADING AND IMPROVING
RJCG. HE WANTS TO ENLARGE IT FROM PRESENT COMPANY SIZE (250
MEN) TO EQUIVALENT OF A BATTALION. HE NOTED THAT IN AGREEMENT
WITH SAUDIS, JORDAN WOULD TAKE ON PATROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ARAB SIDE OF GULF OF AQABA.
HE SAID THAT OFFICERS HAD BEEN WELL TRAINED, MAINLY BY
ROYAL HELLENIC NAVY, BUT NOW HE WANTED TO IMPROVE AND ENLARGE
THIS ACTIVITY AND HOPED FOR A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH US
COAST GUARD. INITIALLY THIS WOULD MEAN ADVISE AND PERHAPS
SOME TRAINING.

2. THIS APPROACH FOLLOWED UP IN DETAIL DURING MEETING
FEBRUARY 22 BETWEEN LT GENERAL ZAYD BIN SHAKER, JAF
CHIEF OF STAFF, AND DATT. BIN SHAKER MADE SPECIFIC
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 01335 231317Z

REQUEST FOR A USCG SURVEY TEAM. BIN SHAKER SAID A THREE-

WAY ARRANGEMENT IS BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA, GOJ AND UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN WITH PERHAPS SOME UN ASSISTANCE TO EXTEND RJCG MISSION INTO RED SEA, PERHAPS AS FAR SOUTH AS JIDDA. MISSIONS WOULD BE THOSE OF SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESCUE. (KING TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD WANT TO CONSIDER SOMEWHAT LARGER PARTOL BOATS, SINCE PRESENT BERTRAMS DO NOT HAVE RANGE OR SIZE ENOUGH FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK.) RJCG IS ALSO CONSIDERING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BASE AND A TOTAL REVAMP OF ITS TOE. BIN SHAKER ASKED FOR US OFFICERS TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT FOR KING AND HIMSELF OF PRESENT CAPABILITIES AND TO OUTLINE WHAT CHANGES, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT WOULD BE NEEDED TO PERFORM EXPANDED MISSION. THEY ALSO NEED ADVICE ON BASE LOCATION AND DESIGN.

3. GIVEN KING'S PERSONAL INTEREST, BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE ALONG LINES OF RECENT TEAMS ON AIR-CRAFT AND AIR DEFENSE. WE ARE NOT IN POSITION HERE TO JUDGE WHAT WOULD BE BEST IN TERMS OF LENGTH OF STAY OR PERSONNEL, BUT WOULD ASSUME THAT 2 OR 3 EXPERIENCED USCG OFFICERS COULD FULFILL MISSION IN 2-3 WEEKS. WE WOULD MAKE CLEAR AT OUTSET THAT STUDY MISSION WOULD IMPLY NO CONTINUING OBLIGATION ON OUR PART; HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SAUDIS OR UN MIGHT ASSIST IF FUNDING RELATIVELY MODEST. WE DO ANTICIPATE REQUESTS FOR USCG TRAINING IN CONUS AND POSSIBLY AN MTT UNDER GRANT AID TRAINING PROGRAM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: STATE AND DAO IN COORDINATION WITH DOI/USCG TO CONSIDER REQUEST AND HOPEFULLY PROVIDE FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO KING'S REQUEST FOR SMALL STUDY MISSION.
PICKERING

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